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new set of conditions before the end, as in the first chapter, which begins with adventurers and explorers, in 1583, and concludes with a pleasure trip from Maryland to New Hampshire in 1744. It is also unfortunate, for the sense of historical continuity, that the reader is again and again turned back to the very beginning. Thus, after reading of Edwards, Franklin, and *The Federalist*, he is dragged back to 1610 in the next chapter, on colonial verse. In a work on so ample a scale the literary product of each half-century, or of some period having a reasonable degree of unity, should have been treated by itself, and the reader thus helped to a unified and coherent view of the development of American literature and life.

In spite of grave faults the volume is a valuable piece of work, chiefly because of the accuracy of its scholarship and the soundness of its literary judgments, in the main, together with its encyclopaedic character. Its value is much increased for the student by the bibliography, which fills 204 pages of the 584, and is on the whole carefully and judiciously made. The index would be more useful if it included subjects as well as authors and titles.

WALTER C. BRONSON.

*Historic Mackinac: the Historical, Picturesque, and Legendary Features of the Mackinac Country.* By EDWIN O. WOOD. In two volumes. (New York: Macmillan Company. 1918. Pp. xv, 697; xiii, 773. \$12.50.)

THIS is a sumptuously printed work about a rarely attractive subject. No less fortunate in its history than in its natural attractions, the "fairy island" of Mackinac radiates a charm which is as difficult to define as it is easy to appreciate. To its spell our author long since succumbed, and the present work, pre-eminently a labor of love, represents his attempt to put in print for the benefit of others something of the feeling of affection for Mackinac with which his local residence and studies have imbued him. Physically considered, the book is delightful. The press-work is excellent, the binding is good, and the illustrations are numerous and attractive. The first volume is devoted to a general historical narrative of Old Mackinac through the three centuries of French, British, and American occupation. The second is composed of selected articles dealing with the legends and history of early Mackinac, drawn from such sources as the *Wisconsin Historical Society Collections*, and the writings of Schoolcraft, Harriet Martineau, Margaret Fuller, T. L. McKenney, Bayard Taylor, Mrs. Kinzie, and Mrs. Jameson.

In view of the character of volume II. there is no occasion for subjecting it to critical consideration. Such consideration of volume I. must fairly begin with the author's own conception of his work. Premising with a statement of the circumstances which aroused his interest in Mackinac, he frankly disclaims for his volumes "rank with the achieve-

ments of historians. They represent merely the attempt of a layman to bring together from this collection [his own private library] some leading features which seemed to be of especial interest". Nor is this attempt at self-appreciation unduly modest. The volume is largely a compilation, in which quotations are of frequent occurrence and frequently of great length. Thus, the narrative of Pontiac's massacre (pp. 157-209) is taken mainly from Parkman and Henry; the chapter on "the English and the Indians" (134-157) is compiled (largely quoted) from Henry, Nevins's edition of *Ponteach*, and Hough's *Diary of the Siege of Detroit*. Taking for granted the plan of composition adopted by the author, his work has been not unskillfully done. He has delved widely among the printed materials available for his theme, and has constructed, on the whole, a readable and interesting narrative. Its gravest defect, perhaps, from the scholarly point of view, proceeds as an inevitable consequence from the author's limitations as a "layman" in the historical field. There is no attempt made, consciously or unconsciously, to evaluate the great store of materials which has been drawn upon in the construction of the narrative. Thus, in the account of Pontiac, Cooley's *Michigan* is offered as an authority, and, worse still, the *Lives of Famous Indian Chiefs* by the American Indian Historical Publishing Company of Aurora, Ill. From the latter work is presented a full-page portrait of Pontiac, although in this case the statement is appended that according to C. M. Burton there is no authentic portrait of the chieftain. Another illustration of the absence of critical evaluation is the crediting twice (pp. 171 and 175) of the ancient romance attributing the failure of Pontiac's plot against Fort Detroit to secret information given to Major Gladwin by his Indian mistress.

From the scholarly point of view it is a matter for regret that the publication of such an ambitious work should evidence so little constructive scholarship. The extensive manuscript collections pertinent to the subject seem to have gone wholly unworked. Much use has been made of the original materials in print, but even here there is little evidence of mastery of the subjects discussed, the author being commonly content with adducing excerpts and quotations from the writings of others, without subjecting them to that course of study and criticism which enables him to reach and state conclusions of his own.

In what has been said it is farthest from our wish to depreciate such essays at local historical writing as the one of Mr. Wood. A professional historian might have done the task better, perhaps, but the fact remains that it has been left to Mr. Wood to essay it at all. His work will fulfill a useful function in aiding the popular spread of historical interest in the region with which it deals. It will not be of very material assistance to the scholarly student of this field of American history.